## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the title on page 1, insert the heading: --TITLE OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2, insert the heading:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS -- .

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, insert the heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, insert the heading:

-- DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A vertebral osteosynthesis equipment generally includes bony anchoring members, such as pedicular screws or lamar hooks, one or two linking rods, intended to be connected to these anchoring members and to be attached to the vertebrae by dint thereof, and parts for connecting this(these) linking rod(s) to these anchoring members. The equipment may also comprise length-adjustable crossbeams,

Docket No. 0573-1026 Appln. No. 10/562,203

which link transversally two parallel linking rods in order to hold said rods with respect to one another.—

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 27, insert the following heading:

## --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, insert the heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31, insert the following heading:

-- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.